18th Amendment curtailed cabinet size: CM Bugti

• Clarifies parliamentary secretary didn't possess signing authority • Says their job is to assist chief minister during question hour, manage dept business within assembly

By Saleem Shahid

QUETTA: Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti on Thursday said all 62 members of the provincial assembly served as ministers in the cabinet before the enactment of the 18th Amendment but its size had been restricted after the constitutional tweak.

Article 130(6) of the Constitution, which deals with the strength of provincial cabinets, says: "… the total strength of the Cabinet shall not exceed 15 members, or eleven per cent of the total membership of a provincial assembly, whichever is higher."

Following restrictions imposed by two articles inserted into the Constitution by the 18th Amendment, the chief ministers of Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa can have a cabinet of 15 members at most. While the size of the Sindh cabinet cannot exceed 19 members.

If the 11pc formula is applied, a 41-member cabinet can be formed in Punjab because its assembly has 371 members.

Similarly, following the 18th Amendment, Article 92 of the Constitution says about federal cabinet: "… the total strength of the Cabinet, including Ministers of State, shall not exceed eleven per cent of the total membership of Majlis-i-Shoora (parliament).

That means the strength of the federal cabinet cannot exceed 49 members because the total membership of parliament comes to 446 (342 MNAs and 104 senators).

The Balochistan chief minister further said the role of a parliamentary secretary was limited to handling a department's business within the parliament, and they did not possess any signing authority.

He expressed these views during the provincial assembly session while responding to a question raised by Leader of the Opposition Younis Zehri of the JUI-F.

'Clearly defined'

CM Bugti said that after the 18th Amendment, it was clearly defined how many ministers could be included in the cabinet.

"The job of a parliamentary secretary is to assist the chief minister during question hour and manage departmental business within the assembly," he added.

"We have provided offices to parliamentary secretaries to facilitate them so they can manage their work more efficiently. We have never called them ministers, nor are they given such a status," he added.

Mr Bugti further said it is the prerogative of the chief minister to appoint anyone as a parliamentary secretary.

"A parliamentary secretary can respond to questions in my presence, but they cannot issue policy directives for any department. The minister remains the in charge of the department," he continued.

Five terrorists gunned down in Mohmand, Tank

Two police officials martyred as IED targets armoured personnel carrier in Dera Ismail Khan

By Fauzee Khan Mohmand and Muhammad Irfan Mughal

POLICE APC after IED explosion in Dera Ismail Khan.—Photo By Muhammad Irfan Mughal

MOHMAND/DERA ISMAIL KHAN: The security forces have killed five terrorists in the Mohmand and Tank districts in two separate operations, according to Inter-Services Public Relations. The statement released on Thursday also confirmed the killing of two militants during an operation in Lakki Marwat, which was reported by the police on Wednesday night.

The ISPR on Thursday said an intelligence-based operation was conducted by the security forces in Mohmand, where troops engaged the terrorists' location, and after an intense exchange of fire, four terrorists were killed. In the Tank district, one terrorist was also killed, ISPR said.

"Another intelligence-based operation was conducted in Lakki Marwat District. In ensuing fire exchange, two Khwarij (TTP members) were effectively neutralised by the security forces," the ISPR statement added. Police officials had confirmed the killing of these militants in the Sraye Norang area of the district on Wednesday night, according to a statement by the Counter-Terrorism Department published in this paper.

The ISPR statement said sanitisation operations were being conducted to eliminate any other terrorists found in the area as a relentless counter-terrorism campaign under vision 'Azm-i-Istehkam' as approved by the federal apex committee on the National Action Plan, by security forces and the law enforcement agencies will continue at full pace.

Two policemen martyred

Meanwhile, two police officials were killed and four sustained injuries after an improvised explosive device struck a police armoured personnel carrier in Dera Ismail Khan's Kulachi tehsil on Thursday.

The IED blast occurred in the Hathala area, about 10 kilometres from Kulachi, on the route leading to South Waziristan. District DPO Sajjad Ahmed Sahibzada confirmed the incident. He said Constable Saifur Rehman and APC driver Ramzan embraced martyrdom, while four officials, including a Frontier Corps havildar, sustained injuries.

Security forces later cordoned off the area and launched a search operation.

Meanwhile, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Sohail Afridi condemned the IED blast and sought an immediate report from the IGP, said a statement by his office.

ATC withdraws arrest warrants for Aleema

By Malik Asad

ISLAMABAD: The Rawalpindi Anti-Terrorism Court (ATC) on Thursday withdrew arrest warrants earlier issued for Aleema Khan, sister of PTI founder and former prime minister Imran Khan, in the November 26 protest case.

ATC Judge Amjad Ali Shah cancelled the warrants after Aleema Khan appeared before the court and submitted a compliance report. She was directed to furnish fresh surety bonds of Rs1 million each, after which the warrants were withdrawn.

The case relates to a PTI protest held in November last year. The court had issued arrest warrants for Aleema Khan several times over her repeated absence. She has denied any wrongdoing and termed the charges politically motivated.

At an earlier hearing, the judge had ordered authorities to block her national identity card and passport and freeze her bank accounts.

During Thursday's proceedings, Aleema Khan filed an application seeking reversal of the freeze on her bank accounts, including joint accounts linked to the National University of Modern Languages. She said the freezing orders, issued without proper legal basis, had caused her undue hardship.

Judge Shah issued notices to the prosecution to respond to the application and said the court would examine whether the freezing orders were justified.

The hearing was then adjourned until Nov 26, with a directive for the prosecution to submit its reply before the date.

MQM-P to push for more provinces

Continued from Page 1

to include the demand for new provinces as part of its proposal, making it clear that the struggle will continue both in parliament and among the public.

Dr Siddiqui also criticised the current governance system, labelling it a "feudal democracy" that prevents education and progress. He stressed that MQM-P sought nothing for itself but only desired the implementation of the constitutional rights of the people.

"No one needs a democracy if its benefits do not reach the common people," he said. "Do rulers in other genuine democracies have this choice? The democracy here is made up of landowners and feudals, and where this system exists, democracy cannot thrive. Only in Pakistan do the rulers have the luxury of acting on whichever constitutional provisions they choose, while ignoring others."

Dr Siddiqui also addressed Karachi's "long-standing grievances", accusing the government of deliberately failing to implement the Karachi Strategic Development Plan 2020 in what he described as a conspiracy to control the city.

"We (MQM-P) have succeeded in securing a Rs50 billion development package for Karachi and Hyderabad from the federal government," Dr Siddiqui said. "However, unfortunately, funds meant for education, healthcare and employment are instead being used to improve infrastructure due to the poor performance of the local government system."

He added, "Our ruling class must accept that Pakistan's prosperity is linked to Karachi, and Karachi's progress will benefit the entire country's 250 million people."

Balochistan govt seeks time to reply in mines law case

QUETTA: The Balochistan High Court (BHC) on Wednesday postponed the hearing on multiple constitutional petitions challenging the newly passed Mines and Minerals Act 2025, after the provincial government sought an additional time to submit its response.

A two-member BHC bench — comprising Acting Chief Justice Kamran Khan Mulakhail and Justice Muhammad Ayub Tareen — heard the constitutional petitions filed by former senator Nawabzada Haji Mir Lashkari Khan Raisani and several political parties against the Act. Assistant Attorney General of Pakistan Muhammad Anwar Naseem Kasi represented the federal government, while Assistant Advocate General Balochistan Zahoor Ahmed Baloch appeared on behalf of the provincial government.

The assistant advocate general requested more time to submit the provincial government's reply, particularly regarding CM Sarfraz Bugti's statement on the suspension of the Act. The court accepted the request and adjourned the hearing.—Staff Correspondent

KP CM denied meeting Imran for seventh time

By Ikram Junaidi

ISLAMABAD: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Sohail Afridi on Thursday again visited Adiala Jail to meet Imran Khan but was denied access for the seventh time.

Talking to media persons, he said it was unfortunate that despite having orders from the Islamabad High Court, he was not allowed to meet the patron-in-chief of his party.

He revealed that he has written a letter to the Chief Justice but has not received any response regarding the issue.

When asked about the Election Commission of Pakistan taking notice of his statement, Sohail Afridi said that he had only said rigging would not be allowed in the by-elections, but his statement was twisted.

JCP to pick superior court judges

Continued from Page 1

Kasi and Shaukat Ali Rakhshani. After the passage of the 27th Constitutional Amendment, changes were made to key constitutional and statutory judicial bodies.

Following these changes, SC's Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhail was included in the Supreme Judicial Council (SJC) and the Practice and Procedure Committee while FCC's Justice Farooq was made a member of the JCP.

Among the three statutory bodies, the SJC is the top forum for judicial accountability that probes allegations of misconduct against judges, the Practice and Procedure Committee forms benches and fixes cases, and the JCP is responsible for appointing judges to the superior judiciary.

Alarm over 'serious' TTP threat

Continued from Page 1

terrorist fighter movements — particularly between Syria, Africa and Central Asia — remain a persistent concern for member states."

Ms Landi said that Al Qaeda's central leadership remained weak and largely marginalised, while affiliates — including Jamaat Nasr al-Islam wal-Muslimin in the Sahel region of Africa — had "exploited local grievances to expand their reach and financing".

Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) also continued to incite attacks and raise funds, she highlighted.

"Overall, ISIL and Al Qaeda have proven resilient, adaptive and opportunistic, exploiting regional instability, weak governance and emerging technologies to sustain relevance and project influence," she said.

Emerging threats

Following Ms Landi's briefing, Pakistan's Deputy Permanent Representative to the UN Usman Jadoon was among those who addressed the meeting.

He highlighted that the global terrorism landscape continued to evolve, "adapting itself to a fast-changing world with new and emerging threats under the shadow of rapid technological advancement".

"At the same time, the prevalence of prolonged unresolved conflicts, external interventions and root causes of terrorism, or euphemistically referred to as the 'conditions conducive to terrorism', remain unaddressed, giving continued life to the threat of terrorism," he added.

He said that as a frontline state in global efforts to counter terrorism, Pakistan had rendered invaluable sacrifices in its efforts to eradicate this menace, with over 80,000 casualties and billions of dollars in economic losses.

Al Qaeda was decimated largely due to Pakistan's efforts, he said.

"Our valiant security forces and law enforcement agencies continue to counter the terrorism threat emanating from Afghanistan where entities like ISIL-K, TTP and its affiliates, BLA (Baloch Liberation Army) and the Majeed Brigade are thriving under the patronage of their hosts and backed by our principal adversary and net destabiliser in the region," he said.

Mr Jadoon stressed that the 1267 sanctions regime — the UNSC framework for imposing sanctions on Daesh and Al Qaeda — must reflect ground realities. "Its scope should be broadened to list individuals and entities, without any association with religion, nationality or ethnicity."

Judges' petition

Continued from Page 1

which now has exclusive jurisdiction over constitutional matters, is one of the main targets of the petition. In it, the judges argue that the FCC chief justice was appointed by the president solely on the advice of the prime minister, without any consultation with the judiciary, in violation of established principles reiterated in landmark judgements such as Al-Jehad Trust and Sharaf Faridi. The draft petition also assails the appointment of the first batch of the FCC judges, asserting that their selection was predetermined and "handpicked" by the executive, even before the amendment was enacted.

According to the draft, the structure and powers of the new court — which binds all other courts but is not bound by precedent itself — create a parallel judicial system unprecedented in common-law jurisdictions. It warned that the FCC's unlimited discretion to withdraw cases from high courts raised the risk of executive control over constitutional adjudication.

The judges also challenged the amendments to Article 200, which allowed the transfer of high court judges without their consent. The petition further argued that such provisions exposed judges to pressure, fear of retaliation, and manipulation of court composition.

In addition, the petition challenges the altered composition of the Judicial Commission of Pakistan (JCP) and the Supreme Judicial Council (SJC), noting that both bodies now contain a majority of non-judicial members or judges appointed under the contested framework.

The petitioners argued that the appointment mechanism had been reduced to "an election by an executive-dominated electoral college", replacing merit-based selection with political influence.

Nasir Iqbal also contributed to this report

Police arrest six, bust dacoit gang

DERA MURAD JAMALI: Police and CIA staff on Thursday arrested six accused criminals and dismantled a notorious gang during intelligence-based raids in Dera Murad Jamali and the Usta Muhammad district, officials said.

The Nasirabad SSP told the media that the six men arrested in Dera Murad Jamali were accused of various crimes, including highway robberies, motorcycle snatching, and theft.

Authorities identified the suspects as Zahid Ali Domki; Abdul Hameed alias Muhammad Bakhsh; Taiga Gola; Jani alias Nohak; Jamil Ahmed Bugti; and Sona Khan Bugti.

In a separate joint raid in the Usta Muhammad district, agencies acting on intelligence information busted a notorious dacoit gang. Officials recovered huge quantities of arms and ammunition, motorcycles, mobile phones, and looted cash.

Usta Muhammad SSP said a gunbattle erupted during the operation after the suspects fired upon officers who had surrounded them.—Ali Jan Mangi

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THROUGH SAP ARIBA DISCOVERY

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1.	OGDCL-SCM-LH-PT-PNP-MELA-303757257-2025	PROCUREMENT OF STARTING MOTORS	09.12.2025 AT 1130 Hrs
2.	OGDCL-SCM-LE-CB-DS-303140859-2025	PROCUREMENT OF SOLAR SYSTEM	11.12.2025 AT 1130 Hrs
3.	OGDCL-SCM-LH-PT-EXPL-I9-302958726-2025	PROCUREMENT OF HIGH PRESSURE FLEXIBLE HOSE PIPE	11.12.2025 AT 1130 Hrs
4.	OGDCL-SCM-LH-PT-SYS-I9-303693421-2025	PROCUREMENT OF LAPTOPS	12.12.2025 AT 1130 Hrs
5.	OGDCL-SCM-FB-CB-DRLG-D-303137993-25	PROCUREMENT OF CASING	22.12.2025 AT 1100 Hrs
6.	OGDCL-FB-CB-PROD-302369137-2025	PROCUREMENT OF CEMENTING & CIRCULATING HOSES	22.12.2025 AT 1100 Hrs

2. All bids will be opened 30 minutes after the bids closing date/ time.
3. Tender Notice/ detailed instructions are available on Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (PPRA) website at www.ppra.org.pk.
4. Tender documents are available online and bids are also required to be submitted online through e-procurement portal at https://ogdcl.com/sap-ariba-tenders or discovery.ariba.com/profile/AN01562899621. For details see "Instruction for Bidders Section" of the tender documents.
5. OGDC reserves the right to accept or reject any bid and to annul the bidding process and reject all the bids as per Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (PPRA) Rule-33.

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REMEMBERING

HUMA KHAISHGI

Who left us for her heavenly abode
on 21 November 2013.
Missed by her family and friends.

Please recite "Surah-e-Fateha" for her.

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Bids are invited from reputable parties for the following:

S/No	Item Description	Bid Bond Amount	Bid Submission / Opening Date & Time	Tender Issuance Date / Tender Fee	SAP Ariba PORTAL LINK
1	**Tender No. 6000009093** Fabrication and Supply of U-Tube Type Heat Exchanger Bundles	Rs. 800,000/-	Bid Submission Through SAP Ariba 10.12.2025 15:00 PST Bid Opening: 10.12.2025 15:30 PST	Tender Issuance Through SAP Ariba 21.11.2025 to 01.12.2025 / Free of Cost.	https://discovery.ariba.com/rfx/23573631
2	**Tender No. 6000009095** Supply of Floor Standing Air Conditioners (Inverter) 4.0 Ton	PKR 180,000/-	Bid Submission Through SAP Ariba 10.12.2025 15:00 PST Bid Opening: 10.12.2025 16:00 PST		https://discovery.ariba.com/rfx/23573727
3	**Tender No. 6000009121** Supply of HVAC Compressors	PKR 100,000/-	Bid Submission Through SAP Ariba 10.12.2025 15:00 PST Bid Opening: 11.12.2025 15:00 PST		https://discovery.ariba.com/rfx/23577280

Any reputable party interested to participate in the tender may send its request for tender documents through SAP Ariba Portal Link. Complete details are also available on the PARCO website **https://www.parco.com.pk/tenders**

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